

METHODS AND ORGANISMS FOR CONCENTRATING AND RECOVERING
METALS AND MINERALS FROM AQUEOUS MEDIA

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention relates to methods and organisms for concentrating and
recovering metals and minerals from aqueous media. In the inventive method, a eucaryotic
aquatic organism capable of concentrating a metal or mineral is contacted an aqueous
medium containing the metal or mineral, in order to concentrate the metal or mineral in the
organism. Following concentration, the metal or mineral accumulated by the organism may
10 be recovered. Sponges are very preferable organisms for isolating metals, e.g, gold and
silver, from seawater.

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